

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 3-9 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

### **REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF IDS REFERENCE**

It has come to our attention that the third reference (GB 1408078) on the IDS Form 1449, filed on November 18, 2002, and the three references (JP 07-017328, JP 06-333200 and JP 07-186833) filed with an IDS on January 24, 2005, were not initialed by the Examiner indicating that the references have been considered. We have enclosed a copy of the two IDS Forms 1449 for your convenience. So that the Examiner's file will be complete, we are also including a copy of the Office Action issued in the Japanese counterpart application. For the examiner's information, the Japanese Office Action shows how the references were applied in prosecution of the Japanese counterpart.

We would appreciate your initialing references GB 1408078, JP 07-017328, JP 06-333200 and JP 07-186833, and returning a copy of the two initialed IDS Forms 1449 to our office at your earliest opportunity.

### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1 and 3-5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Shimomura (U.S. Pat. No. 6,477,260). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

### **Claim 1**

One aspect of the invention recited in Claim 1 resides in that the detection means detects flows corresponding to movement with time of an image in the imaging area of the first imaging means excluding the overlap area, and detects movement of the object present in the rear of the moving body on the basis of the detected flows.

Shimomura (USP 6,477,260) merely discloses that the distance measuring apparatus calculates a variance of the average value in the luminance for each x-axis coordinate position within the predetermined period of time, and determines that a range in which the variance indicates a relatively small value is determined to be an inner part of the vehicle so that the lateral ends of the vehicle can be determined (see col. 15, line 67 to col. 16, line 16). Shimomura fails to disclose detecting movement of the object on the basis of the detected flows.

Shimomura discloses the conventional space stereophotographic image processing for detecting the distance in the overlap area of the imaging areas of the two cameras on the basis of the value of the parallax. On the other hand, claim 1 of the present application discloses detecting movement of the object in the imaging area excluding the overlap area, where the stereophotographic image processing cannot be performed. Thus, the claimed invention is basically different from the invention disclosed in Shimomura.

### **REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimomura (U.S. Pat. No. 6,477,260) in view of Hara et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,728,417).

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shimomura (U.S. Pat. No. 6,477,260) in view of Hannah (U.S. Pat. No. 5,886,744). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

#### **Claim 6**

One aspect of the invention recited in Claim 6 resides in that the image generating means corrects distortion of an image of the object by using the distance detected by the detection means in converting the image.

Hara et al. (USP 6,728,417; "Hara") merely discloses that the calibration method can correct a lens distortion and a distortion caused by perspective transformation (see col. 7, line 67 to col. 8, line 6). Hara, however, fails to disclose correcting variable distortions in accordance with the distance from the moving body to the object. Thus, the claimed invention is totally different from the invention disclosed in Hara.

#### **Claim 9**

One aspect of the invention recited in Claim 9 resides in that the detection means cancels the offset estimated value from each of the flows as a vibration component derived from jolt of the moving body.

Hannah (USP 5,886,744) merely discloses that the edge detector/analyzer determines whether the motion of the edge is legitimate "real" motion, or jitter, in which case edge detector/analyzer instructs jitter filter to filter the motion vectors associated with frames corrupted by jitter (see col. 4, lines 1-5). Hannah, however, fails to disclose obtaining the offset estimated value from each of the flows and canceling the offset

estimated value from each of the flows as a vibration component derived from jolt of the moving body. Thus, the claimed invention is totally different from the invention disclosed in Hannah.

#### CONCLUSION

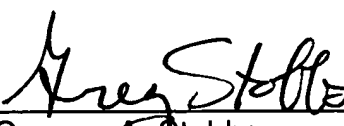
It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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